

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-identified application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for implementing satisfaction of a settlement of a claim between a claimant and another settling party on agreed to settlement on terms including a monetary amount, comprising:

a settlement processing entity receiving the settlement terms and their acceptance by the claimant and settling party, including receiving an executed release by claimant of the other settling party and a payment of at least a portion of the monetary amount to be paid to the claimant on behalf of the other party;

the settlement processing entity initiating the transfer to the claimant of at least one voucher having a stated redemption value and, if required, an electronic transfer of settlement funds in an amount such that the total of the voucher redemption value and funds transferred exceeds said monetary amount; and

the settlement processing entity paying a vendor obligated to redeem the voucher an amount less than the voucher's stated redemption value for the voucher.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 and in which the payment of at least a portion of the monetary amount to be paid to the claimant on behalf of the other party is in an amount which is less than the monetary amount.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 and in which the payment of at least a portion of the monetary amount is in an amount which is the monetary amount, and thereafter, a portion thereof is returned to its payor by the settlement processing entity.

4. (Original) The method of either claim 2 or claim 3, and in which the payment is received by the settlement processing entity after the settlement processing entity makes any required electronic transfer of funds to the claimant.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of either~~ claim 1, claim 2, or claim 3, ~~or claim 4~~, and in which the voucher is electronically transmitted to the claimant.

6. (Original) A method for implementing satisfaction of a settlement of a monetary claim agreed to by a first party and a second party comprising:

(a) the second party providing a third party with details of the monetary settlement and a source for funding the monetary settlement;

(b) the third party assigning a claim settlement identification number to the settlement details;

(c) the third party communicating with the first party to provide the first party with the claim identification number and the option to either receive the agreed monetary settlement in full or to receive at least a part of the monetary settlement in the form of vouchers which can be redeemed for goods and/or services;

(d) the first party electing either to receive the agreed monetary settlement in full or to receive at least a part of the monetary settlement in the form of vouchers and informing the third party of the election and if vouchers are elected, the portion of the monetary settlement to be paid in vouchers; and

(e) the third party withdrawing funds from the funding source and paying the monetary settlement by transmitting vouchers to the first party and/or transferring funds to the first party, in accordance with the election made by the first party, directly to the first party and/or to an account for the benefit of the first party, as directed by the first party.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, and in which the third party provides the first party with vouchers which, when combined with the amount, if any, of the funds transferred to the first party from the source of funding, exceed the full amount of the monetary settlement.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, and in which the funds withdrawn by the third party from the funding source are less than the funds transferred to the first party by an amount agreed upon by the first and second parties as a function of the amount of the vouchers.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7, and in which the third party purchases the vouchers from the suppliers of the goods and/or services at a discount from the face value of the vouchers.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, and in which the third party purchases the vouchers from the suppliers of the goods and/or services at a discount from the face value of the vouchers.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any one of either~~ claims 7, 8, 9 or 10 and in which the third party provides a network site through which any vouchers can be redeemed for goods or services, and in which the third party provides the first party with an ability to access to the network site.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer assisted method for implementing satisfaction of an insurance claim in which a total dollar amount for the loss is agreed to be paid as satisfaction in full of the claim in return for the execution of a release, comprising the steps of:

~~a claims representative of the carrier submitting the claim information to a settlement processing entity data system by computer over an electronic network receiving, at a settlement processing entity data system, information associated with the insurance claim, said information provided by a claims representative of an insurance carrier responsible for the claim;~~

~~the system assigning a claim identification number (CIN) to the claim;~~

~~creating a claim account associated with the CIN, said claim account including said information associated with the insurance claim;~~

~~the CIN being downloaded into the carrier's computerized claims system providing the CIN to a claims system associated with the carrier;~~

the claims representative being notified of the CIN and a URL for accessing the claim on the system providing the CIN to the claims representative;

providing a URL to the claims representative to facilitate access to the claim account;

funds in an amount equal to the loss amount being wire transferred by the carrier from an account to a trust account maintained by the system receiving, from the carrier, funds in an amount equal to the loss amount;

storing the funds in a trust account;

the claims rep notifying the claimant of the availability of the loss payment in full from the System, and providing claimant with the CIN and the URL for the system web site;

the claimant utilizing the URL and the quasi-public network to access the system web site and submit the following information as matching criteria: providing an interface for facilitating claimant access to the information associated with the claim;

a. The CIN b. Claim number c. Name of insured d. Carrier e. Date of loss f. Zip code;

the system uploading and verifying the matching criteria, then allowing the claimant to enter the system web site receiving, from the claimant, verification information;

the System providing the claimant with information regarding ACH transfers, wire transfers and vouchers that are available from System, affiliated vendors, and other businesses and permitting the claimant to choose to receive funds in one or more of the following ways: a. Checks b. ACH transfers c. Wire transfers d. Vouchers e. Combinations of any or all of the above; providing, responsive to the verification information, access to information regarding forms of settlement associated with the claim, said information including:

information regarding forms of payment including checks, fund transfers and vouchers;
and
information regarding affiliated vendors providing goods and services associated with
the vouchers;

receiving a selection of the form of settlement from the claimant;
and
providing the claimant with a form of a release for electronic execution;
the claimant executing the release receiving an executed release from the claimant; and
the system disbursing the settlement funds to the claimant in accordance with the options
selected by the claimant; disbursing settlement payment to the claimant in accordance with the
selection of the form of settlement from the claimant.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, ~~and in which the vendors agree to provide the vouchers for goods or services to the system at an agreed upon discount from the face value of the Vouchers wherein one or more of said vouchers are provided at a discount from face value; and all bank routing information necessary for the system to facilitate the transfer of funds held by system for the benefit of the claimant for payment to the vendors for the vouchers at the discounted prices, and, when the system transferring the funds from system trust account to the vendor by wire as payment for voucher issued to the claimant.~~

14. (Currently Amended) The method of either claim 12 or claim 13, ~~and including the steps of the system tracking all payments and/or vouchers sent to the claimant, and the system notifying the claimant electronically when all funds and vouchers due the claimant have been disbursed~~ further including:

tracking the settlement payment provided to claimant; and
notifying the claimant electronically when the settlement payment has been fully
disbursed.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~any of either~~ claims 12, or claim 13 ~~or 14,~~
~~and including the step, when the claimant no longer has any funds held in trust by the system, of~~
~~the system deactivating the PCIN and closing the claimant's system account~~ further including:

Deactivating the CIN; and
closing the claim account.

16. (New) The method of claim 2 and in which the payment is received by the settlement processing entity after the settlement processing entity makes any required electronic transfer of funds to the claimant and in which the voucher is electronically transmitted to the claimant.

17. (New) The method of claim 3, and in which the payment is received by the settlement processing entity after the settlement processing entity makes any required electronic transfer of funds to the claimant and in which the voucher is electronically transmitted to the claimant.

18. (New) The method of claim 12 further including:
tracking the settlement payment provided to claimant;
notifying the claimant electronically when the settlement payment has been fully disbursed;
deactivating the CIN; and
closing the claim account.

19. (New) The method of claim 13 further including:
tracking the settlement payment provided to claimant;
notifying the claimant electronically when the settlement payment has been fully disbursed;
deactivating the CIN; and
closing the claim account.

20. (New) A system for computer facilitated claims settlement processing comprising:

a first interface configured to receive, from an insurance carrier's claim system, information regarding a first claim submitted by a first claimant, including a monetary settlement amount;

a memory configured to store said information regarding said first claim;

a processing module configured to:

assign a claim identification number (CIN) to the first claim;

provide the CIN and a URL to a claims representative associated with the insurance carrier; and

facilitate transfer of funds from the insurance carrier to a trust account maintained by the system; and

a second interface configured to:

provide the claimant or a representative of the claimant with the CIN and URL;

provide the claimant or a representative of the claimant with access to the system to receive information associated with the claim, including information regarding the monetary settlement amount and one or more vouchers to be provided in partial settlement of said claim; and

receive, from the claimant, an electronic claim release.

21. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising a claim settlement module configured to provide a settlement check to the claimant or the claimant's representative, said settlement check provided responsive to receipt at the system of said electronic claim release.

22. (New) The system of claim 20 further comprising a claim settlement module configured to provide one or more vouchers to the claimant or the claimant's representative, said one or more vouchers provided responsive to receipt at the system of said electronic claim release.

23. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the claim settlement module is further configured to provide one or more vouchers to the claimant or claimant's representative in partial settlement of the claim, said vouchers provided responsive to receipt at the system of said electronic claim release.

24. (New) The system of claim 21 wherein the combination of the value of the settlement check and the stated redemption value of said vouchers is greater than the monetary amount.

25. (New) A method of facilitating settlement of an insurance claim, comprising:

receiving, from an insurance company, a first monetary amount associated with the insurance claim, said first monetary amount provided as partial settlement of said insurance claim;

receiving a plurality of vouchers for one or more goods or services, wherein said vouchers are provided at a discount from a stated redemption value;

providing, to a claimant or a claimant's representative, a second monetary amount in partial settlement of the insurance claim, said second monetary amount being less than said first monetary amount;

providing, to the claimant or the claimant's representative, one or more of said vouchers in partial settlement of the insurance claim; and

providing a discounted payment for said one or more of said vouchers to one or more vendors of said vouchers, wherein the discounted payment reflects said discount from the stated redemption value.

26. (New) The method of claim 25 wherein the second monetary amount and the discounted payment are less than said first monetary amount.

27. (New) The method of claim 26 wherein the combined value of the second monetary amount and the stated redemption values of said one or more vouchers is greater than the first monetary amount.